

Message Text

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TO USINT CAIRO

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FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE USIA INFO ALGIERS AMMAN JIDDA KUWAIT
MOSCOW TEL AVIV TRIPOLI TUNIS USUN BAGHDAD FROM BEIRUT NOV 14

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 13120

DEPT ALSO PASS CAIRO

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 11/14/74

TAGS: PFOR, XF, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONTINUING SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN ME

REF: BEIRUT 13025

1. SOVIET PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TAILORED FOR ARAB CONSUMPTION
(REFTEL) CONTINUES, WITH THEIR LOCAL APOLOGISTS AT PAINS TO ERASE
DOUBTS ABOUT SOV INTENTIONS IN ME AND FUTURE AID TO ARABS. LEAD
ARTICLE IN LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY AL AKHBAR NOV 10
DWELT AT LENGTH ON NEED TO PRESERVE SOVIET-ARAB FRIENDSHIP AND ON
USSR'S ROLE AS "FORTRESS FOR RESISTANCE" AND BASIC INSTRUMENT
FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS IN ARAB WORLD. MUCH
ATTENTION DRAWN TO SOV HELP IN BUILDING ASWAN AND EUPHRATES DAMS,
EXPLOITATION OF IRAQ'S OIL RESOURCES, AND ARMING OF SYRIAN AND
EGYPTIAN ARMIES. DESCRIBED CRITICS OF SOV POLICY IN ME AS
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"AGENT, TARAITSORS AND CHAUVINISTS". CRITICIZED SADAT'S "HASTY

RAPPROCHMENT" WITH US, THAT "TRADITIONAL ENEMY OF ARABS AND PROTECTOR OF ISRAEL", AND QUESTIONED EGYPT'S JUDGMENT IN TRUSTING KISSINGER'S ABILITY AND DESIRE TO PRODUCE JUST SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN QUESTION. US INTENTIONS AND POLICIES, SAID AKHBAR, HAVE NOT CHANGED. "WHAT HAS CHANGED ARE BALANCE OF POWER IN AREA, EMERGENCE OF OIL AS WEAPON IN ARAB STRUGGLE, AND WIDER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR ARAB CAUSE". WEEKLY GAVE USSR FULL CREDIT OF THESE CHANGES, AND CALLED FOR CONSOLIDATION OF ARAB GAINS UNDER SOV GUIDANCE.

2. LCP DAILY, AN NIDA ON NOV 14 ASCRIBED CURRENT ME UNCERTAINTIES TO MACHINATION OF US AND ITS UNRELENTING SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI OBSTRUCTIONISM, NOT TO SOV-BACKED CEASEFIRE. POINTED TO KISSINGER'S STATEMENT RE POSSIBILITY OF US SECURITY GUARANTEE FOR ISRAEL AS "PROOF OF AMERICAN'S REAL INTENTIONS" WHICH ARE REASON WHY PEACE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT GOTTEN OFF GROUND.

3. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH TASS REP NOV 13, EMBOFF WAS TOLD THAT USSR FRANKLY WORRIED OVER CREDIT AND GOOD PUBLICITY WHICH USG CURRENTLY RECEIVING IN ME. SEEMS CLEAR THAT WHILE USSR HOPES FOR SUCCESS OF EFFORTS BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, IT STANDS READY TO BENEFIT FROM ARAB DISAPPOINTMENT WITH USG SHOULD CEASE-FIRE BREAK DOWN AND/OR PEACE TALKS NOT BEGIN AS ANTICIPATED. DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AT LEBANESE FONOFF TOLD EMBOFF NOV 14 THAT HIS ANALYSIS OF US-USSR RELATIONS IN ME IS THAT SOVS ARE LAYING GROUNDWORK FOR MAJOR MOVE DISCREDIT US AND RETURN TO POSITION AS NUMBER ONE IN HEARTS AND MINDS OF ARABS SHOULD THERE BE BREAKDOWN IN CEASEFIRE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF SIX-POINT AGREEMENT.
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